CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims.

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10. (Three Times Amended) A method for embedding chat functions in a Web page, comprising:

in response to a command received by a computer, establishing a browser region including a browser frame controlled by a browser client on a display device; and

establishing a chat region controlled by a chat client within the browser region on the display device contemporaneously with the browser region, the chat region being a real time continuously open bi-directional communications chat region,

wherein chat functions of the chat region and browser functions of the browser region are synchronized via dynamic linking of chat applications and browser applications.

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28. (Three Times Amended) A system for embedding chat functions in a Web page, the system being connected to a computer network and comprising:

a display device; and

a computer for, in response to a command, establishing a browser region including a browser frame controlled by a browser client on the display device and establishing a chat region controlled by a chat client within the browser region on the display device contemporaneously with the browser region, and wherein the chat region and the browser region are concurrently displayed, the chat region being a real time continuously open bi-directional communications chat region, and wherein chat functions of the chat region and browser functions of the browser region are synchronized via dynamic linking of chat applications and browser applications.

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48. (Three Times Amended) A computer program product stored on a tangible medium and comprising:

a computer application stored on a tangible medium processable by a computer for causing the computer to:

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in response to a command, establish a browser region including a browser frame controlled by a browser client on a display device;

establish a chat region controlled by a chat client within the browser region contemporaneously with the browser region; and

display the browser region and chat region concurrently on the display device, the chat region being a real time continuously open bi-directional communications chat region, and wherein chat functions of the chat region and browser functions of the browser region are synchronized via dynamic linking of chat applications and browser applications.

Please add the following new claims 69-83.

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69. (New) A method for embedding chat functions in a Web page, comprising: in response to a command received by a computer, establishing on a display device a browser region including a browser frame and a chat region embedded in the browser region;

controlling the browser region, except for contents of the chat region displayed on the display device, by a browser client;

controlling contents of the chat region by a chat client;

the browser client displaying web pages within the browser frame contemporaneously with the chat client displaying chat text within the chat region such that the chat region and the browser region and their contents are displayed concurrently;

the browser client communicating the web pages with a browser server via a first communications connection; and

the chat client communicating the chat text with a chat server via a second communications connection that is a real time continuously open bi-directional communications connection.

70. (New) A system for embedding chat functions in a Web page, the system being connected to a computer network and comprising:

a display device; and

a computer for, in response to a command, establishing on the display device a browser region including a browser frame and a chat region embedded in the browser region, the browser region being controlled by a browser client except for contents of the chat region displayed on the display device and contents of the chat region displayed on the display device being controlled by a chat client,

wherein the browser client displays web pages within the browser frame contemporaneously with the chat client displaying chat text within the chat region and wherein the chat region and the browser region and their contents are concurrently displayed, the browser client communicating the web pages with a browser server via a first communications connection, and the chat client communicating the chat text with a chat server via a second communications connection that is a real time continuously open bi-directional communications connection.

71. (New) A computer program product stored on a tangible medium and comprising:

a computer application stored on a tangible medium processable by a computer for causing the computer to:

in response to a command, establish on a display device a browser region including a browser frame and a chat region embedded in the browser region;

control the browser region, except for contents of the chat region displayed on the display device, by a browser client;

control contents of the chat region by a chat client;

display web pages by the browser client within the browser frame contemporaneously with displaying chat text by the chat client within the chat region, such that the browser region and the chat region and their contents are displayed concurrently on the display device;

communicate the web pages by the browser client with a browser server via a first communications connection; and

communicate the chat text by the chat client with a chat server via a second communications connection that is a real time continuously open bi-directional communications connection.

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72. (New) The method of claim 69 further comprising:

linking the chat client with the browser client by an interface in the computer:

the chat client requesting the browser client via the interface to obtain a particular web page specified by the chat client; and

the browser client responding to the request by obtaining the particular web page through the first connection and displaying the particular web page in the browser frame.

73. (New) The method of claim 72 wherein:

the requesting comprises

the chat client detecting a user of the computer selecting a hyperlink in the chat text displayed in the chat region; and

the chat client requesting the browser client to obtain the particular web page in response to the detecting.

74. (New) The method of claim 72 further comprising:

the browser client requesting, via the first connection, a chat server to connect the chat client to a particular chat session specified by the browser client; and

in response to the chat server connecting the chat client to the particular chat session via the second connection, the chat client displaying the chat text of the particular chat session in the chat region.

75. (New) The system of claim 74 wherein:

the requesting comprises

the browser client detecting a user of the computer selecting a chat hyperlink in the web page displayed in the browser frame; and

the browser client requesting the chat server to connect the particular chat session in response to the detecting.

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76. (New) The system of claim 70 further comprising:

an interface in the computer linking the chat client with the browser client, the interface enabling the chat client to request the browser client to obtain via the first connection and to display in the browser frame a particular web page specified by the chat client.

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77. (New) The system of claim 72 wherein:

the chat client effects the request in response to a user of the computer selecting a hyperlink in the chat text displayed in the chat region.

78. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein:

the browser client is enabled to request, via the first connection, a chat server to connect, via the second connection, the chat client to a particular chat session specified by the browser client.

79. (New) The system of claim 78 wherein:

the browser client effects the request in response to a user of the computer selecting a chat hyperlink in the web page displayed in the browser frame.

80. (New) The product of claim 71 wherein the computer application further causes the computer to:

link the chat client with the browser client by an interface in the computer; request the browser client by the chat client via the interface to obtain a particular web page specified by the chat client:

obtain the particular web page by the browser client through the first connection and display the particular web page in the browser frame in response to the request.

81. (New) The product of claim 80 wherein the computer application causes the computer to:

detect a user of the computer selecting a hyperlink in the chat text displayed in the chat region; and

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request the browser client by the chat client to obtain the particular web page in response to the detection.

82. (New) The product of claim 80 wherein the computer application causes the computer to:

request, by the browser client via the first connection, a chat server to connect the chat client to a particular chat session specified by the browser client; and

display the chat text of the particular chat session in the chat region by the chat client, in response to the chat server connecting the chat client to the particular chat session via the second connection.

83. (New) The product of claim 82 wherein the computer application causes the computer to:

detect a user of the computer selecting a chat hyperlink in the web page displayed in the browser frame; and

request the chat server by the browser client to connect the particular chat session in response to the detection.